

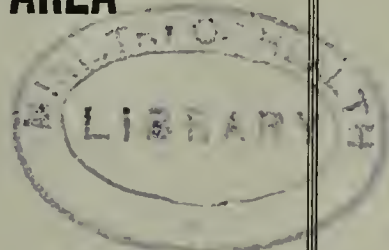
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27 JUN 57

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for 1956

No. 2 SANITARY AREA
DEVON



Medical Officer of Health—Duncombe Steele-Perkins.

Public Health Inspectors Surveyors

Axminster Rural ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough ...	R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural ...	F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Seaton Urban ...	P. Bradley	P. Bradley

Annual Report

for No. 2 Sanitary Area for 1956

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL, AND
SEATON URBAN.

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS, *Med. Officer of Health.*

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the Year 1956, and which deals with the general Health and Sanitary Administration of No. 2 Sanitary Area of Devon.

A general survey of the Area shows continued progress in improved Sanitation throughout the District. This has become necessary, owing to water supplies being piped to a number of villages who before had to rely on local springs and the village pump. Although the laying of water mains is very expensive, in the long run it is going to prove a good investment, as the general health of the district receiving pure supplies of water is bound to improve, and what I have particularly in mind is that the health of the coming generation of children should vastly improve, I am therefore all in favour of extensions of water supplies to all districts, where it is feasible to bring a main. It is almost a *sine qua non* that when you bring water to a village in a few months you have to consider a sewerage scheme for the same area, however it is all to the good that all villages should have a pure water supply and a sewage disposal scheme.

Here let me say how I deeply regret the dropping of the Axe Valley Sewer ; I am certain it was the right way to deal with the Valley of the Axe, instead of a lot of small sewage works, which need constant attendance, and of course very expensive to maintain. We should have had an outfall to the sea, and very little maintenance charges. In years to come we shall regret not having carried out the scheme.

As regards Housing, this has naturally shown a decline, chiefly owing to the fact that very large programmes of building Council Houses have been carried out by my Councils, and so the back of this problem has been broken, but there is still a certain amount of building to be done, for the elimination of unfit houses and rehousing the existing tenants. This problem is now before my Councils, but at the present moment the financial position of the Country does not warrant any very large schemes, especially in view of the cost of building, which reflects at once on the rent the Tenants must pay. I hope in due course the easing of financial restrictions and my Councils being able to borrow money at a reasonable rate, will enable schemes to be put forward with some hope that rents will not be excessive.

As regards Infectious Disease in my Area, this has been a very good year, the number of cases notified were 321 as compared with 501 in 1955, and this is largely accounted for by a mild epidemic of Measles, which accounted for 208 cases out of the total of 321. As you will see by the chart below, Axminster Rural 82 cases of Measles and Honiton Rural 83 cases, were the areas chiefly concerned with the epidemic.

	1956				
	Axminster Rural	Honiton Borough	Honiton Rural	Seaton Urban	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0	0	5
Whooping Cough	18	9	4	1	32
Polio	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	82	42	83	1	208
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	7	17	10	2	36
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	0	1	4
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	1	0	2
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	12	5	5	0	22
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	2	1	1	4
Dysentery	5	0	0	2	7
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum	0	0	1	0	1
	132	76	105	8	321

Diphtheria.

Again I am able to report no cases have occurred of this Disease. It is now some years since we had a case, due no doubt to the constant Immunisation carried out by the County Authorities. There can be no relaxation in Immunisation, and it is up to every parent to see that their children are immunised. I would add for the parents' information that details of the Clinics to be held can always be obtained from the Head Teacher at the School they attend, or if such information is not available there, they have only to get in touch with me, and I will see their children are protected.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were brought to my notice, although there were several outbreaks of Sickness and Diarrhoea, these cases quickly cleared up in a matter of days, and although no doubt were due to a Virus Infection, and in one particular outbreak I called in the County Medical Officer of Health, who kindly brought along the County Bacteriologist, yet after very close investigation and examination of numerous samples, no definite germ was located.

Polio.

It is most satisfactory to be able to report a year entirely free of this disease, no cases having been reported. I sincerely hope

such absence may long continue, but I am afraid it is rather a wishful hope, as Polio seems to be rather on the increase, not excessively, but the fact remains, we still have the undoubted risk of having the disease amongst us. The attacks are so insidious in many cases, and may just start like a feverish cold with a slight headache and sore throat, the patient apparently recovers in a few days, and it may be weeks after that paralysis begins to affect the patient, and one realises that this cold was the beginning of an insidious attack of Polio.

Tuberculosis.

This shows a rather large increase, 22 cases as compared with 6 in 1955. This no doubt is due to the good work the Mass Radiograph Unit is doing. These clinics have been exceptionally well attended in all districts and the value of these visits are that cases in the very early stages are found, and when found, it is now almost a certainty they can be cured. I cannot impress too strongly on the general public the value of these clinics, and beg of them to attend and take their children with them.

Cancer.

The number of deaths from Cancer excluding Lung, show a decrease, 54 cases as compared with 62 in 1955. This is the lowest for some years, except 1954, when deaths were 50. Lung Cancer shows a slight increase, 11 cases as compared with 6 in 1955. This is nothing to be alarmed about, and does not prove that Lung Cancer is due to smoking, and which theory is not so widely held now as formerly.

I do appreciate the terrible tragedy of Cancer, but it seems to me, if you are fated to have Cancer, it matters little where it is situated, Lungs, Stomach, Breast or elsewhere, it is all the same, it is Cancer, and a terrible disease at that, and therefore I can never understand why such attention is focussed on Lung Cancer, especially as it occurs much more frequently in other parts of the body.

As a matter of interest, 10 cases occurred in Males and one in a Female. I append a chart giving the number of cases in my area in the last 6 years.

	Lungs						All types of Cancer including Lungs					
	(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956)	(1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956)
Axminster Rural. Population 14,270—												
	1	3	5	3	1	4	24	32	28	23	31	22
Honiton Borough. Population 4,510—												
	0	0	4	2	2	2	1	3	19	8	12	6
Honiton Rural. Population 6,920—												
	0	2	1	2	1	3	14	15	8	9	10	17
Seaton Urban. Population 2,970—												
	2	0	1	0	2	2	10	5	6	10	9	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	5	11	7	6	11	56	62	62	50	62	54

Water Supplies.

I much appreciate the close liaison maintained by the East Devon Water Board and myself. They have, as always, been most co-operative, and although I have no responsibility towards them, I deeply appreciate their co-operation and assistance, which is at all times available to me.

Clean Food Act.

Although great improvements are taking place in the presentation of food to the general public, old customs are hard to die, and there is still a good deal of leeway to make up until those trading in food realise the vital necessities of producing a clean uncontaminated food for the public. However the improvement is there, and efforts must be kept up to see that the benefit of this Act is also brought home to the public. The public can help a lot if they will at once report either to me or my Public Health Inspectors any cases of dirty food or bad conditions where food is on sale in shops: they can be assured their confidence will be respected.

I would again like to pay my personal tribute to the work of my Public Health Inspectors, who again have done a wonderful job of work, and I could never wish for a more co-operative body of Officials.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	52,135 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	14,270
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£165,123
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£641
No. of Parishes	...	...	...	...	15

Deaths

1955—(100 Males, 100 Females)	...	...	...	...	200
1956—(89 Males, 104 Females)	...	...	...	...	193

Live Births

1955—(81 Males, 78 Females)	...	...	...	...	159
6 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 159.					
1956—(83 Males, 89 Females)	...	...	...	...	172
5 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 172.					

Still Births

1955—6 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	6
1956—2 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1955—3 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
1956—8 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1955—3 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
1956—7 Deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	7

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1956 :

	1955	1956
Measles	266	82
Pneumonia	6	7
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	17	18
Scarlet Fever	9	5
Erysipelas	1	2
Typhoid	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Dysentery	0	5
Food Poisoning	0	1
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	4	12
Meningococcal Infection	0	1
	<hr/> 306	<hr/> 132

Infectious Disease.

With the exception of Measles, 82 cases in all being notified, the year has been exceptionally free of most types of Infectious Diseases, and we can be well satisfied with our record. As you will note from the Infectious Chart, no cases of Polio, Diphtheria or Typhoid were reported. I think this is a very good record indeed with a population of 14,270, and speaks well for the Sanitary administration.

You will note there were five cases of Dysentery. This was of the Sonne type, and I think in recent years has been rather on the increase in the country.

The disease is caused by the *Bacterium Dysenteriae* (Sonne), and is the mildest of the three types of Dysentery. Patients quickly recover with rest in bed on a fluid diet for a few days, and local treatment to relieve prevailing symptoms, and mortality is negligible in this type of disease.

It can be spread by direct contagion with the infected discharges of patients, the infection being introduced via the mouth by soiled tableware and cutlery, or the ingestion of contaminated food and water.

The attacks are often so mild that they pass unnoticed, but may give rise to a more serious attack in a fresh case, where the patient has been infected by a previous mild case.

Tuberculosis.

Twelve new cases were notified as against 4 in 1955, this as I said in my introductory remarks, is entirely due to the Mass Radiography Team operating in the district, but it is nothing to be alarmed at.

Otherwise there is nothing in the Infectious Report which I feel necessary to comment on.

Deaths.

The deaths registered were 193, as compared with 200 in 1955. This is about the average for the area, and calls for no comment, except that deaths under one year of infants was rather high, being 8 as against 3 in the previous year.

Births.

These remain about the same, 172 as against 159 in 1955 ; this is quite a good average under modern birth control methods.

As Mr. White has dealt very fully with other matters, I have much pleasure in appending his report, and he has again done an excellent job of work.

Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956

Water Supplies.

The five private water supplies in use in the district have been sampled regularly and their classifications for piped supplies for rural areas are as follows :—

			Class
Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate)	...	...	1
Beer (Clinton Devon Estate)	...	...	1
Colyton (Feoffees)	...	...	1
Combpyne (Good's supply)	...	...	1
Lyme Regis Water Co.	...	...	1

The East Devon Water Board continue to extend their mains and there is a great need to supplement the Chardstock supply in order that water may be taken to Tytherleigh where the existing supply is in need of improvement, and has been for many years.

Sewerage.

The Uplyme Sewerage Scheme is nearing completion. The Musbury, Whitford Scheme is well towards completion and the Kilmington Scheme has just started.

In all cases it is most comforting to realize, at last, that drainage nuisances in these areas will not only be abated but the housing standards can be raised with the installation of flush drainage.

Meat and Other Foods.

Three out of the four slaughterhouses licensed in the district have been regularly used for killing. During the year many improvements have been carried out to two of these slaughterhouses and it is hoped that during the next year these slaughterhouses will be brought up to a reasonably high standard. The following are details of carcasses inspected over the year:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected ...	310	12	1,022	157
All diseases except T.B.				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	—	2	1
Percentages of all diseases except T.B. ...	9%	—	.29%	6%
T.B. only				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	4
Percentages of T.B. only	.64%	—	—	2.5%

Also during the year the following food was condemned:—Pork 15lb., Beef 219lb., Bacon 15lb., Tinned Meat 111lb., other Tinned Foods 134lb., other commodities 35lb.

Food and Drugs Act.

1. Number of Food Premises—

Type	No. in Area	No. inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers	43	21
(b) Butchers	10	10
(c) Bakers	10	8
(d) Fishmongers	4	4
(e) Confectioners	8	4
(f) Restaurants	14	12

2. Number of premises registered under Section 16—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	...	10
(b) Sale of Ice Cream only (Pre-packed)	...	52
(c) Fish Frying	...	3
3. Inspection of Registered Premises—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages	...	10
Sale of Ice Cream only	...	34
Fish Frying	...	3
4. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the area.
5. Disposal of Condemned Foods—
 - (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
 - (b) Meat—by incineration.
6. Nil.
7. Ice Cream.

No action has been necessary with regard to Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, as no ice cream is manufactured in the district.

8. Food Hygiene Regulations.

All firms within the district were issued with copies of the Regulations and explanatory pamphlets and advice on compliances with the Regulations have been given by the department. Lack of staff during the last year made it impossible to enforce all the Regulations throughout the district but it is hoped the department next year will be able to conduct a comprehensive survey and inspection under the Regulations.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

Camping.

Of the four sites within the district only three operated and the main sites at Beer and Colyton were kept in a satisfactory condition and complied with the conditions laid down in their licences. The site at Andrewshayes, Dalwood, is used more for transit and it is hoped during the next year to bring about a vast improvement to this site.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Collections throughout the whole district continue satisfactorily and are based on weekly and fortnightly collections throughout the main districts and monthly collections in outlying parts. The difficulty of obtaining handy sites for tipping still remains a difficulty with the result that long carries have to be made resulting in costly collections.

Rodent Control.

The part-time Rodent Operator continues to cover the district with periodical inspections and treatments.

Housing.

The actual demolition of the old camp has now been completed and only 72 Converted Dwellings are left as temporary accommodation. These dwellings have served their purpose well but they were never meant to be a long term housing proposition and it is found that it is most difficult to keep them permanently water tight at a reasonable cost. These dwellings should be dealt with by demolition over the next few years. Since the end of the war 582 houses have been erected in the district and with those erected pre-war now total 946. These are under my department's control so far as housing repairs are concerned.

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year the inspections on the remaining two parishes have been completed and final details have been submitted listing those houses unfit for human habitation which cannot be made fit at a reasonable cost. Since the survey was originally started, approximately one-third of the houses categorized as unfit have been dealt with as a result of formal action during the course of the survey.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year (not included in the above).

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 16 |
| 2. Number of Dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ... | Nil |

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	16
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Factories Act, 1937.

Factories	No. in Register	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served
Mechanical	69	28	Nil
Non-mechanical	7	4	—
Number of Outworkers	3		

General Inspections.

Disinfection following Infectious Diseases	2
Water Supplies	24
Inspection of Drains	17
Condemned Foods, Visits and Re-visits	22
Petroleum Inspections	34
Public Health Act, Section 269 (Caravans)	14
Inspections—Public Health Act 1936 (Section 91, etc.) ...	67
Rodent Inspections	21
Miscellaneous (Explosives Act., etc.)	11

L. H. WHITE,

Public Health Inspector.

HONITON BOROUGH

Area	...	...	...	...	3,134 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	4,510
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£68,208
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£265

Deaths

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1955—(25 Males, 30 Females)	...	...	...	...	55
1956—(32 Males, 16 Females)	...	...	...	...	48

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1955—(21 Males, 35 Females)	...	...	...	...	56
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the total of 56.					
1956—(36 Males, 36 Females)	...	...	...	...	72
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the total of 72.					

Still Births

1955—1 Still Birth was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1956—2 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	2
No illegitimate births were notified.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1955—1 Death was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1956—0 eaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

1955—0 Deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
1956—0 Deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

Infectieous Disease

The following cases were notified in 1956 :—

	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	30	9
Measles	88	42
Erysipelas	1	1
Pneumonia	14	17
Puerpural Pyrexia	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	5
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	2
	134	76

Infectious Disease.

As you will note from the Chart, the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year totalled 76 cases as against 134 cases in 1955.

Taken as a whole it is a very good record, as without the slight epidemic of Measles, which accounted for 42 cases out of the 76 and 17 cases of Pneumonia, the position was very satisfactory. The Measles is a yearly outbreak, and we must always expect a good number of these cases, but I am more concerned with the epidemic of Pneumonia which reached the large total of 17. These cases occurred amongst all ages and was Influenza in type : fortunately only one death occurred from this usually very fatal disease, but owing to new drugs in use now, the mortality rate has been remarkably reduced.

I am glad to report that no cases of Diphtheria, Polio or Food Poisoning were reported. This again is highly satisfactory. Respiratory Tuberculosis cases reported were 5. This is higher than usual, and no doubt is due to the intensive programme of Mass Radiography, and cases in the early stages discovered. Here I would like to thank the specialists engaged in the Mass Radiography in Honiton last November, where they had a most successful meeting. In all 3,331 people attended the Clinic and were X-rayed. This out of a population of 4,510 is a most praiseworthy result.

The Schools were exceptionally good in bringing up their pupils for X-ray, and I am deeply grateful to the teachers and headmaster for this very great help. I would point out that in the total of 3,331 people X-rayed there were no doubt some from the surrounding districts, but even allowing for them, Honiton people did well. Dr. Hollis, in charge of the Mass Radiography Service, has written me personally to thank me for as he says a very successful Clinic.

Council Houses.

Altogether 216 houses have been built by the Borough Council, a very fine effort indeed, and compares most favourably with any town the size of Honiton.

The building programme is now practically finished, and although there are still quite a few on the housing list, it seems for the time being, with costs so high, that any further extensive programme cannot be undertaken.

Bathing Facilities.

Considerable controversy still remains as to providing these facilities, and which I am much in favour of, but at the same time, it is my job to see that children shall bathe in water which is as reasonably safe as we can make it.

River Otter. Many years ago the Council provided facilities for bathing in the Weir Pool of the Otter. In those days the river was reasonably clean, and the Pool was periodically emptied by the Mill-Tenant. Facilities for emptying and cleaning the pool have been completely destroyed, the result being the pool has silted up, and is a mass of stinking mud in the bottom. This, when stirred up, cannot be regarded as safe for bathing.

The Pool was closed to bathing by the Council themselves, not on my recommendation, but owing to the fact the Tenant increased the rent to the Council yearly until it became exorbitant and the Council, quite rightly, refused to be held up to ransom. If I

had to express an opinion now as to bathing here, I should strongly not recommend it, owing to the fact that since the Council gave the pool up, Taunton are taking anything up to two million gallons a day from the springs, and although we were assured of a definite flow of 1,000,000 per day, this figure as you know, has never been reached, except in times of heavy rain. In addition to the small flow, what is more important is that Combe Raleigh, Monkton, Rawridge, Upton and Churchingford all now discharge their effluent into the river, and Churchingford goes in untreated.

I know bathing still goes on in the Otter, but it would require an army of police to patrol the river to stop it.

As regards Allhallows Pool, this is a small pool built for the Allhallows School, and when used by them had a perpetual stream of running water always passing through. This water came from Knights Water which originated at the Railway, and has now been cut off, with I believe, the consent of the Council.

This Pool only holds 30,000 gallons of water, and no chlorination or filtration plant. It has to be hand-chlorinated, a very haphazard way of doing it, but I have agreed that a certain number of school children shall use the Allhallows Pool under supervision in order to be taught to swim. No general use of this bath by the public should be permitted.

Handling of Food.

Considerable improvement has taken place during the year, but habits of many years take a long time to eradicate ; however, improvement is definite, and with a watchful eye, will no doubt continue to improve.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths occurring were 48 as compared with 55 in 1955. This is rather below the average.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered were 72 as compared with 56 in 1955. This is a very large increase.

Lung Cancer.

Two deaths occurred from this disease, the same as in 1955, and calls for no comment.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1955	1956
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	5	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	6
Leukaemia	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	15	7

Other Heart Disease	7	6
Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	3	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	6
Motor Accident	0	2
Coronary Disease	7	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	7
Influenza	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach	1	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion ...	0	0
All other Accidents	1	0
Suicide	0	0
Diabetes	0	0
Nephritis	0	0
Gastritis	0	0
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 48

I have much pleasure in appending the report of Mr. Bailey, Public Health Inspector, and I would draw your attention to the enormous amount of work involved in the Inspection of Meat, no less than a total of 15,684 carcasses of Pigs were examined, also 1,471 Sheep, besides numerous Cattle and Calves, an extraordinary record of hard work, and the amount condemned shows how essential it is this work must continue.

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Council Houses.

Permanent Pre-War Houses	137
Permanent Post-War Houses	204
Prefabricated Houses	12
	<hr/> 216

Water Supplies.

The supplying Authority for water is the East Devon Water Board.

Sewage Disposal.

There are two works in use—the old Eastern Works and the War Department Works. Negotiations have now been completed to purchase the War Department Works in order that the two works can be linked and used together. An extensive improvement scheme is now being considered by the Council.

Refuse Collection.

Regular weekly refuse collections are made throughout the Borough and disposal is by controlled tipping.

Rodent Control.

A part time rat catcher is employed by the Council and there have been no major rat infestations during the year.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are provided in the town and temporary arrangements have been made to rent a private convenience in order to alleviate congestion caused by the summer traffic. Negotiations are proceeding to erect a new convenience.

Bakehouses.

There are five bakehouses in the town.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 34 Factories and Workshops on the register. Only one notice has had to be given in respect of these premises.

Ice Cream Regulations.

29 Premises selling Ice Cream are registered. The Hot Mix Method is not used in manufacture.

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Food.

9 Premises are registered under the above heading.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

5 Premises are registered as dairies.

Slaughterhouses.

4 Slaughterhouses are licensed in the Borough. Three are small slaughterhouses and one is large concerned with "export" meat.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	...	439	62	191	1,471	15,684	

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	4	—	1	1	35
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	6	—	10	210
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci ...	7.0	.1	0.5	.8	1.5

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcases condemned	8	1	—	—	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	3	—	—	280
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis	7.0	6.0	—	—	2.0

Cysticercosis—

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil
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Food Poisoning.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning in the Borough.

R. B. BAILEY,
Public Health Inspector.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	61,265 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	6,920
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£53,622
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£200

Infectious Disease

	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	2	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	50	4
Measles	73	83
Pneumonia	12	10
Erysipelas	0	0
Puerpural Pyrexia	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Food Poisoning	3	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	5
Meningococcal Infection	0	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
	—	—
	142	105

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1955—(36 Males, 37 Females)	...	...	...	...	73
1956—(28 Males, 41 Females)	...	...	...	...	69

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1955—(67 Males, 55 Females)	...	...	...	...	122
1956—(36 Males, 43 Females)	...	...	...	...	79

The number of illegitimate births registered was 3, and are included in the above total of 79.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1955—1 death was registered	...	...	...	...	1
1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1955—1 death was registered (illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
1956—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0

Still Births

1955—3 Still Births were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
1956—3 Still Births were registered	...	...	...	...	3

Births.—These show a big decrease, 79 as compared with 122 in 1955.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered was 69, as compared with 73 in 1955.

The chief causes of death were :—						1955	1956
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	2	9
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	12	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	14	8
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
						<hr/> 73	<hr/> 69

Infectious Disease.

Taken on the whole, we have had a pretty good year from freedom from Infectious Disease.

As usual Measles, which is a yearly visitor, claimed most of the cases, and as you will see from the chart, 83 cases were notified. This from a total of 105 cases in all of various cases, leaves only a total of 22 cases of other Infectious Disease, and which I think is a very satisfactory record.

As you will note from the Chart, no cases of Polio, Diphtheria or Food Poisoning were notified, and the other cases notified call for no comment, in fact as far as I am concerned with Infectious Disease I have had a very quiet and satisfactory year.

Housing.

Our programme for Housing seems almost to have been finished with perhaps the exception of Branscombe, and until the Parish Council can agree on a satisfactory site, I am afraid Branscombe are going to "miss the bus". Admittedly, this area is one of the beauty spots of Devon, and one does not want to put up a block of Council houses which are going to mar the beauty of the valley,

but there must be sites which could be developed which would not mar the valley. I would like to see a little more co-operation with the landowners, and so help solve this eternal question, as I am afraid until they do, building at Branscombe is only a dream of the future.

River Otter.

As you all know, we had a long fight with the Taunton Corporation over the taking of more water from the Otter. Under the order, Taunton had to allow a million gallons of water to pass over the Weir at Knackers Hole. The Devon County Council practically without consulting the Councils through whose area the Otter flowed, asked the County Council to grant them an additional 400,000 gallons per day. This would have meant that the Otter flow could be reduced in times of drought to a mere 600,000, but as a matter of fact, the flow over Knackers Hole in dry periods hardly exceeded the figure of 600,000, certainly nowhere near the million mark.

Fortunately, I had been keeping a close watch on Knackers Hole and my measurements never came anywhere near the figures given by Taunton, and at the conference with Taunton, I told Taunton that their recording instrument was giving a false return, and that the machine was out of order and completely unreliable. They agreed then that an independant expert should examine at once and report back to the Committee. This was done by the Engineer to the East Devon Water Board, who agreed that the machine was out of order and was not registering correctly, and that it was actually showing a million gallons a day flowing over Knackers Hole in excess of what was really going over, and my figures were completely upheld. In view of this, Taunton Corporation at once sought permission of the Ministry to withdraw the order, which was granted, and to a certain extent the flow of the Otter was safeguarded.

I would here like to place on record the very courteous reception we received from Taunton, who quite unwillingly were led to believe that all this excess water was flowing down the Otter. The moment they knew they were wrong they did all in their power to retrieve the position.

All this goes to show how important a governing body, such as the Devon County Council, should before taking such grave steps in giving away our birthright, consult the Councils concerned, if this had been done in the first place I do not think Taunton would have pressed their claim so far.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Very great progress has been made in establishing small works in the villages where main water has been laid on. The Branscombe scheme has been completed and is working very satisfactorily, and now Branscombe Beach is a much cleaner and healthier spot to spend a day on.

In addition, Combe Raleigh has a small scheme, which has certainly cleaned up the village, and is working extremely well.

At the time of making out this report, the Plymtree scheme is practically completed, and what has been a plague spot in the centre of the village now exists no more.

Other works contemplated are for Offwell, Payhembury and Yarcombe, and other villages in their turn will be considered as main water is laid on.

I would here like to give a word of praise to Mr. Baxfield, who not only has planned these works, but has seen them carried out in a highly efficient manner. No praise of mine can be too high for the able manner in which he has planned and carried out these works.

I have pleasure in appending his report.

Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956.

Meat and Food Inspection.

No slaughterhouses are operating in this district and no meat inspection was carried out apart from a certain amount of assistance rendered to the Borough Council.

Refuse Collection.

Controlled tipping on the three tips has proceeded during the year and conditions have been satisfactory. The tips have all been fenced and sign-posted and no unauthorised tipping is permitted. Notices have been served on all occupiers in the district for the provision of regulation dustbins under the Public Health Act, 1936, and very great improvements in the collections have resulted.

Rodent Control.

Routine treatment of sewers and refuse tips has been carried out during the year, although no heavy infestations were noted. All infestations of private premises have been dealt with and again no heavy infestations have been detected.

Housing.

At the end of 1956 there were 18 Council houses in course of construction, two having been completed during the year. 7 houses were completed by private enterprise and 10 premises were improved with the aid of improvement grants. Various modifications were carried out to the Dunkeswell and Monkton Council houses to provide a water carriage drainage system in place of buckets.

Water Supplies.

Water supplies are maintained in the rural district by the East Devon Water Board and a start has been made on the water supply scheme for Plymtree, Talaton, etc.

Sewage Disposal.

Very extensive work has been carried out on sewerage schemes during the year. The Branscombe extension was finished in April and a complete scheme for Combe Raleigh carried out during the summer months. The Plymtree sewerage scheme was completed in December apart from the provision of the specialist equipment from Adams-Hydraulics Ltd.

In addition to the above, the scheme for Payhembury was completed and prepared for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

With regard to the schemes mentioned in the last report for the Parishes of Offwell and Yarcombe, Offwell was approved but permission was not given to go to tender due to the economic situation and Yarcombe was not considered sufficiently urgent to permit any immediate action being taken.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

1. Number of Food Premises Registered—20 General Stores.
2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—13 and 1 dairy registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises—27.
4. No action (want of cleanliness).
5. Method of disposal of condemned food—by incineration.
6. Nil.
7. Number of Premises registered under the Ice Cream Regulations—13.
8. Number of exemption certificates issued under the Food Hygiene Regulations—2.

F. J. BAXFIELD,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Area	...	...	...	1,190 acres
Population	...	...	...	2,970
Rateable Value	...	...	£59,033	
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£230	

Deaths

1955—(35 Males, 37 Females)	...	...	...	72
1956—(25 Males, 31 Females)	...	...	...	56

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1955—(19 Males, 14 Females)	33
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The number of illegitimate births registered was 3,
and are included in the total of 33.

1956—(14 Males, 15 Females)	29
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The number of illegitimate births registered was 3,
and are included in the total of 29.

Still Births

1955—0 were registered	...	...	...	0
1956—3 were registered (includes one illegitimate)	...	...	...	3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1955—0 were registered	...	...	...	0
1956—0 were registered	...	...	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1955—0 were registered	...	...	...	0
1956—0 were registered	...	...	...	0

Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	3	0
Puerpural Pyrexia	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Measles	0	1
Pneumonia	4	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Dysentery	0	2
Erysipelas	0	0
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	0
Non-Respiratory T.B.	0	1
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 8

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered from all causes were 56 as compared with 72 in 1955. The causes of death were :—

	1955	1956
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0
Other Tubercular Disease	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	6
Diabetes	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	10	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	2
Other Heart Disease	17	14
Other Circulatory Disease	4	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach	1	1
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	1	0
Gastritis	2	1
Nephritis	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	7	3
Accidents—Motor	2	0
Other Accidents	3	3
Suicide	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Leukaemia	0	0
Homicide	0	1
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 56

Infectious Disease.

Seaton still maintains its wonderful record in freedom from Infectious Diseases. It is a wonderful record, and deserves wide publicity as a health resort.

As you will observe from the Chart, Seaton again escaped the Measles epidemic, only one case being reported.

I am also glad to report no cases of Polio, Food Poisoning or Diphtheria were reported.

The other minor cases reported call for no comment.

There was a slight outbreak of Diarrhoea and sickness in two lodging houses. Expert examination by the County Authorities could not locate the cause, though every possible source of infection was examined, and no doubt it was due to a virus brought in by a visitor ; however, the cases quickly recovered under treatment and the infection did not spread beyond these two houses.

Housing.

Progress is now being made with building new houses, in all 12 houses were built by the Council and occupied during the year.

I do not receive so many complaints and requests for houses in your area as I do in the others, so I take it the needs are being gradually satisfied.

Water Supply.

The supply was just about sufficient for the area and this was a fairly dry year, but there is little reserve in a long period of drought, and I am of opinion it would be much safer to link up with another supply which in times of need could augment the present supply. It is necessary to bear in mind, in assessing the needs of Seaton, that the town is developing and will in future years develop a lot more as a holiday centre for visitors.

I have much pleasure in adding the report of my Public Health Inspector, who again has had a very busy year and done a splendid job of work.

Annual Report of Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956.

The following visits either by myself or my Assistant have been made during the year :—

				Visits	Revisits	Total
Public Health—General	...	...	...	87	125	212
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	5	—	5
Refuse and salvage	...	...	...	18	—	18
Camping	...	...	...	16	—	16
Complaints—Council Houses	...	...	...	113	—	113
Complaints—Others	...	...	...	25	1	26
Water Supply	...	...	...	165	2	167
Rodent Control	...	...	...	23	68	91
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	56	—	56
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	56	2	58
Housing—						
General and Grants	...	...	...	25	7	32
Council Houses	...	...	...	202	46	248
Sites	...	...	...	65	—	65
Inspection Regulations	...	...	...	5	—	5
Applications Inspections	...	...	...	11	—	11
Food and Drugs—						
Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	47	3	50
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	6	1	7
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	27	—	27
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	20	4	24
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	182	—	182
Drains Tested	...	...	...	70	—	70
Met. Station Readings	...	...	...	365	—	365
Petroleum Regulations and Explosives	...	...	...	9	—	9
Shops Acts	...	...	...	3	1	4
Factory Acts	...	...	...	37	15	52
Interviews with owners and others	...	...	...	163	—	163
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	218	—	218
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				2019	275	2294

Housing.

12 Council houses and 10 privately owned houses were built and finished. One private house was converted into 3 self-contained flats.

Statutory action was taken under the Housing Acts (Section II Housing Act 1936) in respect of one house, and at the time of going to Press, action is being taken with regard to other unfit houses.

Water Supply.

A new water main was laid through a private estate to serve 12 Bungalows being built for the Church of England Pensions Board. The quality of the water has been consistently excellent. Although 1956 was a very dry year, we were able to maintain a reasonable supply and only minor restrictions were imposed.

At the time of going to Press, the top intake has been repaired with sheet steel piling and the loss of water mentioned in last year's report has been thereby remedied. I am also glad to be able to report that as a result of many nightly tests and waste points discovered and repaired, the nightly consumption has been considerably reduced.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The only fresh item I have to mention is that it has been necessary to call the Council's attention to the bad condition of the sewers in Fore Street. These sewers are random stone barrel sewers.

Dairies and Food Shops.

1. There are 3 Bakehouses.
 - 14 Restaurants or Cafes.
 - 8 Grocers.
 - 3 Butchers' Shops.
 - 6 Sweet Shops.
 - 2 Fishmongers.
 - 5 Greengrocers.
 - 4 Public Houses.
 - 6 Hotels.

Approx. 20 Boarding Houses.

2. There are 3 dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54. 21 premises are registered for the sale of Ice Creams and 8 premises for sausages, etc.
3. There were 108 inspections of food premises.
4. An educational film was shown to food proprietors and was well received.
5. Condemned food is disposed of on the refuse tip—care being taken to bury it.
6. No special examination of large consignments of food has been necessary and no large quantities condemned.

7. There are no premises in respect of which the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations apply.
8. The Food Hygiene Regulations are receiving our earnest attention and owners of food premises are being encouraged to comply with those regulations and some progress is being made, but much remains to be done.

Refuse Collection and Salvage.

Refuse is deposited at Beer tip as formerly. The collection and baling of waste paper for salvage has been discontinued, it being economically not worth doing.

Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts.

28 notices were served plus 14 outstanding from the previous year, and 32 were complied with leaving 10 outstanding to be carried forward. Only 2 statutory notices were necessary.

Rodents.

My Council has a very efficient Rodent Operator and the treatment for rats in buildings and sewers continues. Rats were dealt with in 22 properties. There were no major infestations.

General.

As last year, I have the help of a qualified Assistant Public Health Inspector. Our duties in addition to Public Health and Housing matters also include waterworks, sewerage, highways, town planning, pleasure grounds and amenities, and the meteorological station. The amount of clerical and drawing board work increases each year.

P. R. BRADLEY,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

